

CHIMERIC TARGET MOLECULES HAVING A
REGULATABLE ACTIVITY

Abstract

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The present invention relates to a chimeric target molecule having an activity which can be regulated or modulated by a binding molecule. The invention also relates to methods of using the chimeric target molecule to detect the presence and/or amount of a desired analyte in a sample. The analyte is a binding molecule, or a competitor of a binding molecule, which binding molecule, upon binding to the target molecule, alters the activity of the target molecule in a detectable way. In one aspect of the invention, a binding molecule binds to the chimeric molecule, inactivating it. An analyte in a test sample competes and/or displaces the binding molecule from the chimera, reactivating it. The reappearance of activity in the presence of the analyte indicates its existence in the test sample existence and amount. Another aspect of the invention relates to a binding molecule which regulates a chimeric target molecule and methods of producing it.

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